NDC. The NDC is scheduled to meet on 21st December, 2002 for the purpose. After it is approved by the NDC, the Document will be laid in both the Houses of the Parliament.

Reduction in Number of Centrally Sponsored Schemes

315. SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Planning Commission has decided to reduce the number of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS);

(b) if so, what are the schemes proposed to be abolished/merged with other such schemes; and

(c) what is the final state of the CSS to be implemented during the Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) The Planning Commission has undertaken a review of the existing Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) and has subjected them to Zero-Based Budgeting. It is proposed to retain only those schemes in the Tenth Plan that are demonstrably essential. The CSS schemes to be implemented in the Tenth Plan are part of the Tenth Plan Document which will be placed before the National Development Council (NDC) for approval. The NDC is scheduled to meet on 21st December, 2002 for the purpose.

Financial Health of Rajasthan

316. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 4629 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 9th May, 2002 and state:

(a) what specific proposals have been made by Rajasthan for readjustment of the loan grant ratio in the Central Plan Assistance for restoration of financial health of the State especially in view of the recurrent drought and scarcity that hit the State during the recent years; and

(b) the details of the Medium Term Fiscal Reforms Plan drawn up

by Government for restoration of financial health of the States and how far it meets its specific demands and requirements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) At the 49th meeting of the National Development Council (NDC) held on 1st September, 2001 the Chief Minister of Rajasthan had suggested that the pattern of Central Plan Assistance, which is presently 70% loan and 30% grant for non-special category states, should at the least be changed to 50% loan and 50% grant from the Tenth Plan onwards.

(b) The Medium Term Fiscal Reforms Programmes (MTFRP) of States include, *inter-alia*, measures aimed at augmenting the States' Own Tax and Non-tax revenues, reprioritisation of expenditure and reduction in unproductive revenue expenditure besides reforms in the power sector and restructuring of public sector enterprises. It is expected that the measures to be undertaken by the Govt. of Rajasthan under its MTFRP will enable the State to overcome the fiscal imbalances and deploy more funds towards developmental activities.

Tenth Five Year Plan

†317. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, when this approval was given and the names of those five areas where target has been fixed to spend maximum amount; and

(c) the amount to be spent in each of these areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) Approval of a Five Year Plan is accorded by the National Development Council (NDC). The draft Tenth Plan has recently been cleared by Full Planning Commission and the Cabinet, and is to be placed for the consideration and approval of the NDC. The NDC is scheduled to meet on 21st December, 2002 for the purpose.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.